NEW SHEET

Sheet 6

FIG. 6

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Defining a plurality of network data aggregations, wherein the network data aggregations are based on switch boundaries, wherein interswitch links are used to define the plurality of network data aggregations, and wherein the network data aggregations are defined via an XML file using a DTD format

Computing a current state value for at least one of the network data aggregations, wherein the current state value is a CRC code, and wherein the CRC code is computed utilizing data associated with the corresponding network data aggregation and a CRC polynomial

For at least one current state value, determining if the current state value is different than a corresponding prior state value for a corresponding network data aggregation

Merging data corresponding with at least one network data aggregation determined to have a current state value that is different than a corresponding prior state value, with prior data corresponding with at least one different network data aggregation determined to have a current state value that is not different than a corresponding prior state value for the different network data aggregation